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outline[1,noun]
outline[2,transitive verb]

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outline

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Main Entry: **1out-line** 🔊

Pronunciation: 'aut-'līn

Function: *noun*

1 a : a line that marks the outer limits of an object or figure : **BOUNDARY b** : **SHAPE**

2 a : a style of drawing in which contours are marked without shading **b** : a sketch in outline

3 a : a condensed treatment of a particular subject <an *outline* of world history> **b** : a summary of a written work : **SYNOPSIS**

4 : a preliminary account of a project : **PLAN**

5 : a fishing-line set out overnight : **TROTLINE**

synonyms OUTLINE, CONTOUR, PROFILE, SILHOUETTE mean the line that bounds and gives form to something. OUTLINE applies to a line marking the outer limits or edges of a body or mass <traced the *outline* of his hand>. CONTOUR stresses the quality of an outline or a bounding surface as being smooth, jagged, curving, or sharply angled <a car with flowing *contours*>. PROFILE suggests a varied and sharply defined outline against a lighter background <a portrait of her face in *profile*>. SILHOUETTE suggests a shape especially of a head or figure with all detail blacked out in shadow leaving only the outline clearly defined <photograph in *silhouette* against a bright sky>.

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